

City Council Minutes
Tuesday, December 10, 2013
City Hall Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

1. Called to Order at 7:05 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilor Kelcourse
3. Roll Call was done and all Councilors were present.
4. **Act on minutes** – None at this time
5. **Mayoral Appointments** – Councilor Ferguson stated that there was a late file. **Councilor Neale moved to accept the late file. Councilor Gilday seconded and it was voted Unanimous.**
Councilor Ferguson stated that the first late file was 2013-144, Alan Corey to Conservation Commission, term to expire June 30, 2017.

Mr. Corey stated that he is retired and will be able to spend the time. He says that he has knowledge of reading plans and topography and drainage and has surveying background.

Mayor elect Ken Gray asked that these late files be rejected.

Councilor Lavoie moved that Mayor elect Ken Gray be allowed to address the Council from the podium. Councilor McClure seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

Mayor elect Ken Gray stated that he is unaware of any of these individuals and has had no communication from anyone in the Mayor's office or anyone at City Hall regarding these appointments. He believes that there are no urgent matters before the Conservation Commission predicated the need to do this tonight. He asked that these appointments be rejected tonight and give him a chance to meet with these individuals since he is the one who will be working with them through his term.

There was discussion as to how many seats are on the Conservation Commission and it was not clearly determined if it was 7 or 9.

Mayor Kezer stated that he still has 22 days within his administration to conduct the daily business of the city and that is what they are doing. He stated that he has a number of applications in his office for appointments to Boards and Committees. He has held off on all of those except for these three because the Conservation Commission which is a very critical board to all of our Economic Development activities that are on-going as we speak has two active members and not enough for a quorum. He stated that he has done the due diligence that is normally done for appointments, met with the individuals and moved forward to get the Conservation Commission staff sufficient for a quorum so that the new members have enough time to do the education and the training to come up to speed on the laws that they will be dealing with as well as the issues that are before them so that there will be no delay with the issues that are before them.

Councilor Ferguson stated that she has checked the Council book on committees and there are seven members of this committee. We presently have two and it is not unusual to have a Mayor make appointments up to the last day. We will let the people speak and vote on that. It still leaves two vacancies on this committee.

Mayor Elect Gray stated that his only issue that that he was not informed.

Councilor McClure suggested to table this to the next City Council Meeting in January.

Councilor Neale stated that he agrees that Mr. Gray needs to talk with these people and that we have a special meeting set up for December 17 and feels that would be fair so he moved to table these appointments to the December 17, 2014 meeting

Councilor Kelcourse seconded and it was voted IN FAVOR: Scorzoni, McClure, Ferguson, Neale, McMilleon, Kelcourse, Kimball OPPOSED: Lavoie and Gilday

Councilor Ferguson stated that this is a very long agenda and there is protocol to follow and hollering from the back of the room will not be recognized.

6. Licenses & Permits –

2013-128 – General Business License – Code & Circuit, 36 Main St., Amesbury, MA
Ken Aspelagh, 195 Market St stated that he will be teaching computer classes at 36 Main Street on the second floor. All age groups. Computer Science fundamentals, Hands on circuitry and robotics.

Councilor Neale moved to accept with the usual stipulations. Councilor Gilday seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-129 – General Business License – Joel C. Zeigler dba Rocky Hill Architecture, 14 Cedar St. – No Show, continued to the next meeting.

2013-130 – Common Victualler License – Soulicious Foods, 59 Pleasant Valley Rd, Amesbury, MA – City Clerk, Bonnijo Kitchen stated that Ms. Sheehan has asked to reschedule to the next meeting.

2013-132 – General Business License – CommSat, LLC, 26 Friend St., Amesbury, MA
Laura and Ben Soussan stated that they have been servicing computers since the 80's and they service computers for small businesses. They stated that they are purchasing 26 Friend St and are excited to become members of this community. She stated that they have serviced the computers for the Chamber of Commerce for a long time, Flatbread and other areas as well. They look forward to working with local businesses and residents as well. They corrected their application to read hours of 9-5 M-Sat.
Councilor Neale moved to approve with the change of hours and the usual stipulations. Councilor Gilday seconded. It was voted Unanimous.

2013-142-Common Victualler License – Maya Gourmet, LLC-Kitchen Local 14 Cedar St.
Maya and Rabih Bov Chaaya stated that they will be working from Kitchen Local making Baklava and will be selling retail and wholesale. Made to order until they get their wholesale license.

Councilor Kelcourse moved to accept with the usual stipulations. Councilor Neale seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-143-Auto Class II License- James P. Mellett, III, 110 Haverhill Rd.

James Mellett stated that he has always had an interest in classic cars and this is his attempt to start a part time online business that would help people find specific classic cars and in order to do this he needs to work through a Class II dealers license. He will not be storing or displaying any cars and any work to be done on cars would be 100% outsourced.

Councilor Lavoie mentioned that the Zoning Officer, Denis Nadeau has also submitted a notice that there are no zoning issues and that this business is okay and also that there will not be any storage or display on the lot.

Councilor Neale moved to accept with the usual stipulations. Councilor Gilday seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

Councilor Lavoie moved to move the vote on the License renewals to the end of the meeting. Councilor Gilday seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

7. Correspondence

- a. President/Vice President Communications
 - 1.) Approval of 2014 Council's Regular Meeting Schedule

Councilor McMilleon moved to accept the 2014 City Council Schedule. Councilor McClure seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

- b. Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions
- c. Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

8. Public Comment

Jim Thivierge, 8 School Street, spoke about teaching the State Constitution of Massachusetts in our schools.

Claude Gonthier complained that his agenda didn't have late files for the appointments. He also wants to know what is driving the Chicken Coop law.

Donna McClure spoke on the marijuana cultivation sites. When the bill was brought to the table, five of the Councilors were unaware that the other four Councilors and Mayor Kezer had been meeting privately with the ATG group. Because of the lack of transparency and information given to many members of the Council and to the residents of the city, she stated that she has requested a moratorium to provide time for the community and the Councilors to catch up and become educated on this important issue for Amesbury. Today she became aware that Mayor Kezer had signed two letters of non-opposition on behalf of the City of Amesbury which were signed on November 18 and November 20, 2013. In Mayor Kezer's eyes the addition of a marijuana grower in Amesbury wasn't worthy of a discussion prior to the election and wasn't worthy of a discussion after the election. His actions have completely unserved the residents' ability to weigh in on this clearly hot button issue. The Moratorium will

have a second reading that will be on December 17th and she urged anyone to come and voice concerns then.

9. Council Response to Public Comment

Councilor Scorzoni gave explanation to Mr. Gonthier regarding the Chicken Coop bill and that he filed the ordinance on behalf of a constituent in his ward who asked him to. As new residents they had approached the town because they were interested in having back yard chickens and they were told they couldn't because under current zoning you are not allowed to have any chickens in town short of 2 acres of land. They have been talking about it at length at the committee meetings at great length and encouraged Mr. Gonthier to come to the meetings. He stated that it is becoming an issue in other communities as well and they are trying to find a balance that protects folks that want to have chickens as pets and have local egg production and also respect the rights of neighbors and others and make sure it is manageable throughout.

Councilor Lavoie stated that the Ordinance Committee met earlier and did not have a recommendation. Up until Thanksgiving, the moratorium was going to be taken up in January. The bill sponsor suggested it be this year. We had a special meeting on Monday December 4, 2013 and it is on the agenda for a special Council hearing on December 17, 2013. As it turns out the Planning Board was able to meet last night, it is being submitted as a zoning amendment for a moratorium which is recognized by the Attorney General's Office and at the present time the Planning Board will have public hearing on December 30, 2013 which under the statute for amending zoning code, this council can't do anything until the Planning Board holds its public hearing so he suspects that the City Council will simultaneously have a public hearing with the Planning Board on December 30.

Councilor Kimball commented on the ability for any Mayor whether it be the sitting Mayor or newly elected to make appointments as they see fit. He stated that he was happy to see a lot of contested races for the elected positions this past election season. With that being said, there are a lot of Boards and Commissions where we can't get people to volunteer, so he urges the next Council to take a look at the Boards and Commissions and if they can't get people to volunteer for them they should maybe either re-configure or do away with some of them. He doesn't feel it is a good president to scare away people from volunteering to serve. To politicize an appointment at this point seems un-necessary. He stated that he voted in favor to give the Mayor elect time to the people that he might be working with on that board but we are struggling as a city as it is to get people to volunteer and we shouldn't be putting up further barriers.

10. Public Hearings

Councilor Kelcourse moved to take 2013-125 out of order. Councilor McMilleon seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-125 An Order that the City Council accepts grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice to support two School Resource Officer positions under the 2013 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program.

Councilor Neal read the Finance Committee recommendation which was unanimously voted to recommend approval.

Chief Ouellet stated that this grant was awarded to three communities in Massachusetts and Amesbury was one of those three. This grant is proactive in putting a School Resource Officer in the schools. These numbers are staggering and the Federal Government agrees that we need an SRO. The Chief reviewed a handout and some of the numbers from that handout that he provided. (Copy Attached)

Councilor Scorzoni questioned how this grant will offset overtime as far as potential savings for the department and if the Mayor elect is supportive of this funding and the commitment that this will mean in years out.

Chief Ouellet stated that his School Resource Officers submit 75% to the schools and 25% to the department and that the department will be strictly held to that so they will have that 25% to work with for overtime. He stated that it certainly won't hurt the overtime. He stated that they have met with the Mayor elect and have discussed this program.

Mayor Kezer stated that this opportunity will meet the need of a position that was requested to be supported in the budget last year which could not be met. We need to address the needs of our teenage population to be sure they are in a productive direction and not a destructive direction. He feels there is great value even outside of school time and during the summers to have these officers work with our youth and to basically alleviate issues before they become police problems. The first year of the grant we are splitting the cost between the city and the Police Department and the following years it will be up to the budget builders to incorporate the Amesbury match as part of their budget process. The fourth year it is a commitment by the city that we retain those officers paid for by Amesbury and the expectation is that there will be a number of officers that are expected or are eligible for retirement and the movement of Sr. Officers being replaced with Jr. Officers will help offset the commitment to the grant by nature of the turnover within the Police Department. After the fourth year there is no commitment, it will be up to the City to decide whether or not to maintain that position.

There was a brief discussion about the call breakdown.

Councilor McClure asked if there was a plan in place for measuring the success of this program.

Chief Ouellet stated that there absolutely will be.

Superintendent, Michelle Robinson stated that they are prepared to add to their budget next year to include the federal match. She stated that she feels the best people to share with you how valuable this position would be is the principals of each of the schools.

Councilor Scorzoni asked how the school is planning to come up with the money to meet their portion of the match.

Dr. Robinson stated that with the timing of the Federal Grant starting on August 1st and our fiscal year starting on July 1st, it would be part of the 2015 budget.

Roy Hammond, Amesbury High School Principal spoke in favor and of the importance of this program.

Mike Curry, Amesbury Middle School Principal spoke in favor and of the importance of this program.

Louise Charette, Cashman School Principal and Walter Ellison, Amesbury Elementary School also commented on the importance of this program.

Councilor Ferguson opened the public hearing.
Jane Snow spoke in favor of the grant.

Jim Thivierge spoke in favor of the grant.

Peter Hoyt spoke in favor of the grant.

Mike Greaney spoke in favor of the grant.

Councilor Ferguson closed the public hearing.

Donna McClure moved to accept the grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice to support two School Resource Officer positions under the 2013 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program as submitted. Councilor McMilleon seconded. Roll Call Vote - Roll Call Vote - 9 -Yes, Kelcourse, Kimball, Lavoie, McClure, McMilleon, Neale, Scorzoni, Gilday, Ferguson

Councilor McClure moved to take the agenda out of order and take 2013-119, 2013-123 and 2013-122 before anything else. Councilor Gilday seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-119 An Order that the City Council vote to provide snow and ice removal from Quimby Lane.

Summary: this order will provide the residents of Quimby Lane with municipal snow and ice removal services while the street acceptance process is pending.

Councilor Lavoie read the Ordinance Committee's recommendation for approval for adoption as submitted.

Councilor Neale read the Finance Committee recommendation for approval for adoption with the stipulation that the acceptance process will continue.

Joseph Fahey, Director of Community and Economic Development stated that one of the issues that had been holding up the acceptance of the roadway was the final coat which had not been done although the main sub paving had been in place for well over a year. The top coat that was just put on a few months ago has not weathered an entire winter. All the other work has been done and all the work has been reviewed by Planning and Engineering. The solution is that the community is holding a bond for a particular amount to deal with any

damage that should occur to the street surface during the winter as we provide the services and then we expect in the spring to recommend full acceptance of the roadway.

Councilor Ferguson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor McClure moved to approve to provide snow and ice removal from Quimby lane as submitted. Councilor McMilleon seconded. Roll Call Vote - 9 -Yes, Kelcourse, Kimball, Lavoie, McClure, McMilleon, Neale, Scorzoni, Gilday, Ferguson

2013-123 An Order to request that the City Council vote to layout and accept a certain road and easements within Spring Hill Subdivision, said road being Timber Lane, as a public way.

Summary: to accept Timber Lane as a public way.

Mr. Fahey stated that this road acceptance had some environmental issues that needed to be addresses and they have been resolved. This has gone to the Planning Board and has been accepted at that point. All the peer reviews have been done, engineering reviews have been done and the road is ready for acceptance at this point.

Councilor Ferguson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Neale read the recommendations of the Finance Committee which was for approval.

Councilor Lavoie read the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee which was for approval.

Councilor Scorzoni moved the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Ordinance Committee and Planning Board to accept Timber Lane as a public way as submitted. Councilor Neale seconded. Roll Call Vote - 9 -Yes, Kelcourse, Kimball, Lavoie, McClure, McMilleon, Neale, Scorzoni, Gilday, Ferguson

2013-122 An Order to request the City Council vote to authorize the mayor to enter into a twenty-five year lease agreement for the development of soccer fields at Woodsom Farm.

Summary: The Mayor seeks to offer leased space at Woodsom Farm for the relocation and development of quality soccer fields for the community's soccer programs. By offering an extended lease agreement, the awardee of the lease agreement would be able to secure long-term non-city funding for the construction of appropriate soccer fields.

Councilor Neale read the Finance Committee recommendation which was for approval.

Councilor Lavoie read the Ordinance Committee recommendation which was for approval of a revised bill with a change not to exceed 15 years.

Mayor Kezer commented that he is advocating for a unanimous vote in support of this agreement. There has been some language tweaking in order to make it specific in compliance with the law. We have put together a summary of the request for proposals and have provided a draft request for proposals and a sample lease agreement for an agreement with the awardee. The process would be to bid out for the services of providing use of the

land in exchange for improvements to the land to support soccer programs for the youth. We propose a 25 year lease arrangement and would advocate that the Council go with the 25 year lease term rather than the 15 that was suggested by the Ordinance Committee to allow the awardees to amortize their investments over a longer time frame in order to keep the costs to the participants down to the reasonable levels that it is.

Chris Saums, 83 Highland St. stated that Amesbury Soccer Association wants fields at Woodsom. The space needs to be conditioned with improved soil and softer grass and it is expensive. It is ASA's intention to bear the burden of that cost however it is significant, preliminary estimates are between \$600 and \$800 thousand. To have the participants of our program bear the cost of that at 15 years instead of 25 would mean a 66% increase in the payment, not for insurance, uniforms or registration fees but just for principle payments for improvements to the land. We feel 25 years is a reasonable amount of time to make the improvements to that space.

Councilor Ferguson opened the public hearing.

Liz Iacobucci, 10 Birchmeadow Rd spoke against putting soccer fields in this spot and stated that in 1999 the Council voted to build soccer fields at the Margaret Rice Park. She stated there are problems in the procurement laws and there is also an issue with Lot 7 and the title which was never approved by the Council.

Councilor Scorzoni stated that he did not agree that the Margaret Rice Park should be used for soccer fields. He feels that area should be used for solar panels. He stated we need to move forward with the fields at Woodsom Farm. This is a benefit for everybody in the community.

Councilor McClure stated that she feels there are still questions that need to be answered and it needs to just get done once and for all.

Mayor Kezer stated that Margaret Rice Park is not a park, it was never passed. It would take years and years and lots of dollars to make that land even remotely suitable for these purposes. As far as the deed, if there is a problem with the deed it is irrelevant here. We are not selling the land. If we were selling the land the problem would be with the buyer not the seller. As far as all of the litigation as he was briefed, they are all ended and all in favor of the city. As far as the posting in the central register, we are bidding out for services, it is a two week process and not the conveyance of land which is a four week process. It is not an issue. What this order is requesting is giving the Mayor the authority to enter into a lease agreement of up to 25 years. If there are any flaws anywhere in the process all it does is delay the execution of the lease. It should not delay the action by this council tonight to give the mayor the authority to enter into a lease agreement at the conclusion of a procurement process. He urges the Council to vote in favor of this tonight.

Jim Thivierge, 8 School Street, stated that we bought the farm in 1987 and a committee was formed back then with a Chair person who was in Environmental Affairs. He can't believe that there would be so much trouble on athletic fields. No one had any objection to it at that outset. Soccer fields and Woodsom Farm has brought down the government. He stated that this needs to be resolved and the Council has the ball.

Margaret McCarthy, 2 Democracy Drive stated she wants to thank those who have put in a lot of time trying to realize this vision that started 25 years ago. She says she has been involved with the Soccer Association for a few years. As a resident she would like to see this come to fruition.

Chris Saums, 83 Highland St., stated that he is a father and coach of soccer players and he wants to see flat green fields for the kids to play on. He asked that the Council support their vision.

Jane Snow, 4 Fern Ave stated that she would like to see a resolution to this. She asked that there be an Adhoc committee for 2 months and get the questions on the table and get them resolved and bring it back as a final presentation.

Liz Iacobucci spoke again against voting this tonight.

Councilor Ferguson closed the public hearing.

Councilor Kelcourse stated that the Amesbury Soccer Association has been using those fields for some time now. He does not feel that there is any issue in improving those fields for the purposes of playing soccer yet leaving them open to the public. It is an improvement, we own it we keep it and it is still ours at the end of the lease period and it doesn't alter the field other than make it more useable for those kids playing soccer on it and they have been doing it since 1999.

Councilor McClure asked about the 15 year vs. 25 year agreement that the ordinance Committee discussed.

Councilor Lavoie commented that Mr. Johnson stated that he feels firmly that in 25 years two generations of school age children go through there and have one group control that site without it going out to bid again, it sort of says how can it be right? You have to amortize capital costs over a reasonable period of time. All of our public buildings are 20 year bonds. The Ordinance Committee voted 3 to 1 for 15 years. He states that he feels 25 years is fine, it is a policy issue for this council.

Councilor Kimball commented in favor of voting in favor of this.

Councilor Kelcourse commented in favor of voting in favor of this.

Councilor McMilleon stated he is in favor of this. This simply places the power of entering into a lease in the Mayo's hand.

Councilor Neale commented that he is in favor of this. The fields just need to be made into safe play areas.

Councilor Ferguson commented that there are not enough fields in Amesbury. It will remain open space and it should be 25 years. She thanked the Soccer Association for putting themselves out there. She stated that she has been on the Amesbury Improvement Association for 29 years and the Margaret Rice Park is a sore spot with her; because of the

fact that a dump was named after such an amazing woman. Woodsom Farm is where the soccer fields belong. Margaret Rice Park is not an honor for that woman.

Councilor Gilday spoke in favor of passing this tonight.

Councilor Lavoie stated that he is ardently in favor of this.

Councilor McClure stated that if the children have been playing here for 25 years already this seems silly. She just wants to be sure that this does not interfere with applying for grants to help us pay for that.

Mayor Kezer stated that the answer is no and we will still be eligible for applying.

Councilor Scorzoni stated that we should not preclude ourselves from being eligible for future grants; that is his only concern.

Councilor Kelcourse moved to accept as amended by the Ordinance Committee with a lease not to exceed 25 years. Councilor Kimball seconded. Roll Call Vote - 9 -Yes, Kelcourse, Kimball, Lavoie, McClure, McMilleon, Neale, Scorzoni, Gilday, Ferguson

A five minute recess was taken at 10:15 and back in session at 10:20 p.m.

2013-116 An Ordinance requesting the Municipal Council vote to amend the provisions of the Amesbury Zoning Bylaws to allow for the limited use of maintaining chickens as pets and for egg production in residential areas.

Summary: The purpose of this ordinance is to balance the desire of residents to own backyard chickens while protecting abutting neighbors from noise, odor, damage or threats to health and public safety.

Councilor Lavoie read the Ordinance Committee recommendation.

Councilor Scorzoni moved to table this item until the December 17, 2013 Special Council Meeting. Councilor McMilleon seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-117 An Order to request the City Council vote to hold the annual Classification hearing to vote on four (4) separate items in order to establish the tax burdens for each class of property.

Summary: On an annual basis, the City Council must vote on the issue of selecting a residential factor which will determine the percentage of the burden to be borne by each class of property.

Jason DiScipio, Assessor, stated that we are here to vote on four items, 1 – the selection of a residential factor; 2 – an open space discount, 3 – a residential exemption and 4 – a commercial exemption.

Councilor Neale read the Finance Committee recommendations.

There was discussion about the tax rate and that it had increased from \$20.24 to 20.98.

Councilor Ferguson opened the public hearing.

Jim Thivierge commented on the increases of the tax rate that have happened annually for many years and spoke in favor of a split tax rate.

Councilor Ferguson closed the public hearing.

1. Councilor Kelcourse moved the finance committee recommendation for a residential factor of 1. Councilor Gilday seconded. Roll Call 9 -Yes, Kelcourse, Kimball, Lavoie, McClure, McMilleon, Neale, Scorzoni, Gilday, Ferguson,

2. Councilor Neale moved to not establish an open space discount. Councilor Lavoie seconded. Roll Call 9 -Yes, Kelcourse, Kimball, Lavoie, McClure, McMilleon, Neale, Scorzoni, Gilday, Ferguson,

3. Councilor Neale moved to not accept a residential exemption. Councilor Kimball seconded.

Roll Call 9 -Yes, Kelcourse, Kimball, Lavoie, McClure, McMilleon, Neale, Scorzoni, Gilday, Ferguson,

4. Councilor Neale moved to not accept a commercial exemption. Councilor Kelcourse seconded. Roll Call 9 -Yes, Kelcourse, Kimball, Lavoie, McClure, McMilleon, Neale, Scorzoni, Gilday, Ferguson

2013-118 An Order to request the City Council vote to increase the exemption amount of qualified applicants.

Summary: On an annual basis, the city council must vote to decide if the city of Amesbury shall increase the exemption amount of qualified applicants under the provisions of M.G.L.

Councilor Neale read the Finance Committee recommendation for approval.

Councilor Ferguson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Neale moved the finance Committee increase the exemption amount of qualified applicants under the provisions of MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17E, Clause 22 through 22E, Clause 37A, Clause 41D, Clause 42 and Clause 43 by 100 % as provided by Chapter 73, Section 4 of the Acts of 1986 as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988 as submitted.

2013-120 An Order to reduce the FY2014 Water Budget

Summary: Reduce the FY201 Water Budget by \$505,000.

Mike Basque stated that the votes for 120 and 121 are to use \$505,000 of our water surplus towards our water budget. The first action will reduce the budget and the second action will apply the \$505,000.

Councilor Ferguson opened the public hearing and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Neale read the Finance Committee recommendation.

Councilor McMilleon moved the finance committee recommendation to approve as submitted. Councilor Kelcourse seconded. Roll Call Vote - 9 -Yes, Kelcourse, Kimball, Lavoie, McClure, McMilleon, Neale, Scorzoni, Gilday, Ferguson

2013-121 An Order to appropriate \$505,000 of water retained earnings.

Summary: Appropriate \$505,000 of water retained earnings to the FY2014 Water Budget.

Councilor Neale read the Finance Committee recommendation.

Councilor Ferguson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Neale moved the finance committee recommendation to approve as submitted. Councilor Kelcourse seconded. Roll Call Vote - 9 -Yes, Kelcourse, Kimball, Lavoie, McClure, McMilleon, Neale, Scorzoni, Gilday, Ferguson

2013-124 An Order that the City Council accepts a \$1,642,434 grant from the Mass Works Infrastructure Grant program for the Water Street Improvement Project.

Summary: The City of Amesbury has been awarded a \$1,642,434 grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development through the Mass Works Infrastructure Grant program. The program provides municipalities and other eligible public entities seeking infrastructure funding to support economic development and job creation. This grant will provide funding for various infrastructure improvements including but not limited to realigning Water Street improving pedestrian and traffic safety, improving sidewalks along the street, creation of new parking spaces, drainage improvements, and the installation of street trees and period lighting.

Councilor Neale read the Finance Committee recommendation which was unanimously for approval.

Councilor Ferguson opened the public hearing.

Thomas Barrasso, 11 East Greenwood Street spoke on behalf of the Lower Millyard Task Force and their vision of what the Lower Millyard will become. He stated that there are many elements coming together to create this and the Water Street Improvement Project is one of the most crucial components.

Councilor Ferguson closed the public hearing.

Councilor Kelcourse moved the Finance Committee recommendation to accept a \$1,642,434 grant from Mass Works Infrastructure Grant Program for the Water Street

Improvement Project as submitted. Councilor McMilleon seconded. Roll Call Vote - 9 - Yes, Kelcourse, Kimball, Lavoie, McClure, McMilleon, Neale, Scorzoni, Gilday, Ferguson

2013-133-License Renewals- Common Victualler (List attached)

Councilor Kelcourse moved to approve, Councilor McMilleon seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-134-License Renewals – General Business (List attached)

Councilor Lavoie moved to approve. Councilor McMilleon seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-135-License Renewals – Auto Class I (List attached)

Councilor Lavoie moved to approve. Councilor Gilday seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-136-License Renewals – Auto Class II (List attached)

Councilor Neale moved to approve with an exception that Smart Mart Auto Incorporated be re-moved from the list until he can resolve the issues that Mr. Nadeau has addressed. Councilor Lavoie seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-137-License Renewals – Auto Class III (List attached)

Councilor Neale moved to approve. Councilor McMilleon seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-138-License Renewals – Auto Amusement (List attached)

Councilor Neale moved to approve. Councilor McMilleon seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-139-License Renewals – Sunday Jukebox (List attached)

Councilor Neale moved to approve. Councilor McMilleon seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-140-License Renewals – Dine, Dance & Entertainment (List attached)

Councilor Neal moved to approve. Councilor Kelcourse seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

2013-141-License Renewals – Inn Holders (List attached)

Councilor Neale moved to approve. Councilor Lavoie seconded and it was voted Unanimous.

11. First Readings – None at this time.

12. Late File – None at this time.

Councilor Lavoie asked that a joint meeting be scheduled with the City Council and the Planning Board on December 30, 2013.

Councilor Kelcourse moved to adjourn at 10:55 p.m. Councilor Lavoie seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Dunning
Assistant City Clerk